

HERITAGE & DESIGN STATEMENT



for

Erection of new security mesh fencing atop existing sandstone wall to an overall height of 2.4m to effectively safeguard the school site. Works to include installation of 1No automated vehicular sliding gate to the staff car park, formation of an opening within the existing masonry wall structure and installation of 1No pedestrian access gate

at

Birstall Primary Academy, Chapel Lane, Birstall, Batley, WF17 9EJ





Introduction

This statement has been prepared to support the planning application for the erection of a new security mesh fence line to safeguard the existing school staff car park. Works include the installation of an electric sliding vehicular access gate and the adaptation of the existing external wall and installation of a new pedestrian access gate, along with formation of a new bin store internally to the car park with timber 'hit and miss' fencing.

The Site

The site is approximately 2521m² (0.2521 hectares) in size and is situated within the Birstall Conservation Area which is characterised by a range of uses such as residential dwellings, places of worship, commercial and industrial. The existing area where works are proposed is to the school staff car park which has a stone wall to the perimeter topped with black painted railings and the car park is laid to tarmac surfacing. An increase to the net hard standing area is not proposed.

National Planning Policy Framework

Conserving & Enhancing the Historic Environment

(126) Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats.

The subject property and site are not listed, and there are no significant architectural features to the existing property which would require attention / protection. In this case, the only 'heritage asset' to the property is that it falls within the Birstall Conservation Area.

Existing Building

The property is of Victorian style, constructed of locally sourced, solid sandstone masonry. The property shows architectural elements typical of the era of construction and in keeping with neighbouring developments including stone sills, heads and mullions, stone parapets, and detailed stone quoins. None of these elements will be affected by any of the proposed works.



Proposals

The school are experiencing safeguarding issues, with unauthorised visitors and vehicle movements within the school staff car park during peak times. This presents a significant risk to both staff and pupils. It is proposed that the existing painted railings atop the boundary wall be removed, and new fencing be installed, cranked over the wall and with security mesh panels, to an overall height of 2.4m from the external ground level outside of the site perimeter. The fencing will be powder-coated green (RAL 6005).

There is an after-school club accessed off the staff car park and in the winter months staff struggle to identify visitors. It is therefore proposed to provide a secure pedestrian access gate of matching style to the new security fencing of 2.4m height with electromagnetic access control, fob readers and an intercom unit which will protect pupils and staff by restricting unauthorised access. A 1.2m wide section of the existing sandstone boundary wall will need to be demolished to provide room for the new pedestrian access gate.

A new vehicular sliding gate is proposed to be installed of 2.4m height, with a matching security mesh panelling and powder-coated green (RAL 6005) to prevent unauthorised access to the car park. This will be open to staff before and after school for free access but closed during school hours.

It is also proposed to improve the existing bin store area with the installation of new 1.8m high 'hit and miss' timber fencing and matching, lockable double gates to improve security and visual amenity.

Conclusion & Summary

The proposed fencing has been designed to maximise security whilst matching existing fence lines already installed elsewhere on the site, with minimal impact to the existing sandstone wall. The new fencing will be 'cranked' over the existing stone boundary wall to minimise the impact upon the structure whilst improving safeguarding by preventing climbing from the exterior of the site.

Due to the design considerations taken, it is not thought that the proposals will have any impact upon the conservation area. It is our opinion that the compliance of the proposals with Kirklees planning policies has been demonstrated and we request the approval of this application.